



**Minutes
Tempe Veterans Commission
June 16, 2015**

Minutes for the Tempe Veteran's Commission Meeting held on June 16, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Tempe Public Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

Commission Members Present

Keith Finkle
Michelle Bravo
Bryan Durham
Scott Essex
Troy Friedman
Dale Groen
Patricia Little-Upah
Laura Skotnicki
Thomas Winkel

Staff Present

Lisa elena Vallejo, Supervisor
Parrish Spisz, City Council Aide II

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

Item 2 – Review of Open Meeting Law – Chair Keith Finkle

Covered open meeting law. – No one present that falls under public appearance

Item 3 – Approval of Previous Minutes – Approved

Item 4 – Public Awareness Follow up – Denise Rentschler (Not present)

Chair Keith Finkle asked that any further additions to website be made to himself or David Lucier to filter to Denise Rentschler to better streamline website. Concern was made that CRRC (Community Resource & Referral Center) not on website. A brief explanation of CRRC given as well as Veterans Downtown Campus CASS as any homeless veteran can call to get assistance, will link to health care and mental health. Decision made to update website twice a month

Item 5 – Event Calendar

Discussion ensued on how to best share events within the commission. Chair Keith Finkle volunteered to create an email tempeveteranscommission@gmail.com for strict calendar use only.

Item 6 – Commission Power Point Presentation

Review of Power Point that was emailed to the commission.

Comments: Make Power Point “more eye-popping”, utilize notes sections for expansion on topics and feedback, concentrate on feedback from audience, include website and future social media, include status of accomplishments/objectives 10-15 minute time limit.

Item 7 – Employment Discussion - Bryan Durham & Thomas Winkel

- Chamber of Commerce Update
 - Met last week and gave a presentation on supportive employer training
 - Wider Chamber will be a better audience
 - Chamber of Commerce, Mayor's Office on board for training
 - Future Plans – TBD
 - Goal is to create a Tempe business event
 - Arizona Veterans Supportive Employer (AVSE) training to show what can be done with the support of Mayor's Office, Chamber, and the Coalition collaborating and working together.
- Veterans Economic Communities Initiative discussion
 - Last month President Obama and Secretary McDonald announced Veterans economic communities of interest (Phoenix selected)
 - Economic liaison (Christine Gannon)
 - Will shine spotlight on Veterans supportive employers
 - Prevent duplication of services
 - Meeting set up for June 23rd, 2015 with Robert, Naomi and Donna.
- Potential next steps?
 - Small sit down for clarification on getting word out (press event)
 - Reach out to City Council and Mayor to co-draft an email to send out an update and getting word out to employers to participate
 - 5-10 candidates to roll out to broader community?
 - Present strategic model?
 - Have more of a local approach – gage responses.
 - How many resources are needed to guide companies through?
 - Move forward with identifying a full spectrum of what we are capable of doing.
 - Check with ASU as employer and Maricopa County Community College
 - Maricopa County Community College District Veterans Initiative recently announced
 - Reach out for presentation at next meeting
 - Point of contact: Troy Friedman and Thomas Winkel

- Narrow down preliminary target list before next meeting through feedback.
- Presentation from Dale Groen
 - Too many searches creates a challenge in trying to get best resources out to Veterans
 - Biggest challenge – How do you market those resources specific to Veterans?
 - Strive to be “more Tempe Centered”
 - Narrow list and make more Veteran specific for website.
 - Transitioning Veterans are getting good information.
 - Reduction in force has resulted in a lot of “lost” veterans
 - Veterans to work with an official partner to get through to the right resources.
- Troy Friedman – Work with East Valley Veterans Education Center
 - Has opportunity to expand its current location
 - An unnamed organization would like to give center money to expand footprint (50,000 sq. feet of space available)
 - Create an area where all community partners can use the facility in the service of Veterans in our community to justify money given.
 - Larger concept much the same as a One Stop
 - Currently in proposal stage
 - Commission to draft a letter of support
 - Vote in favor was unanimous
- Michelle Bravo –
 - Part of workgroup at ASU – Public Service Academy in Fall
 - 100-500 students
 - Certificate Program – next generation of service leaders
 - Cross sector collaboration
 - 3 internships as part of the program
 - Executive Service Director – Brett Hunt
 - Seeking service projects for the semester

Item 8 – Suggested Items for Future Agenda

- Coordinate event for press work
 - Highlight ASU as a recognized employer
- Focus on Education – Troy Friedman
- Health and welfare (following meeting)
- East Valley standup (November)
- Extend an invite to Brett Hunt
- Joanna and Michelle - 4 Year institute post grad ROTC
- Bryan – Veterans Supportive Designation
- Overview of Website

Item 9 – Commission Member Announcements

- Retirement Ceremony – Michelle Bravo – August 21, 2015 at 2:00 PM will be at ASU – invite email to follow.

Item 10 - Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM

Next meeting to be held August 11, 2015 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Tempe Library Board Room, at 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

Minutes prepared by: Lisa elena Vallejo

Reviewed by: Naomi Farrell

Keith Finkle,
Chair, Tempe Veterans Commission